

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. A NOTE ON HANUMAN LANGUR, *PRESBYTIS ENTELLUS* SWIMMING

Incidents of swimming are uncommon for langurs. If an animal accidentally falls into water, it may swim a few meters in the process as was once recorded of a langur (*Presbytis geei*) swimming (Obousseier and Maydell 1954). Hanuman langur, *Presbytis entellus* to cross even narrow canals uses bridges rather than swimming across (Krishnan 1972). In Jodhpur when I was observing a troop of a male band on August 7, 1983 at 0900 hrs, a male juvenile (18 months old) accidentally fell into a pond when playing on

a *Prosopis juliflora* tree. After hearing the sound, the near males (18 individuals) of the male band started looking towards the water and the juvenile. The juvenile started swimming at once and only two thirds of the head was visible above the surface. The juvenile swam about 60 metres in 7 minutes to reach the other bank. A moment later two male juveniles of the same age approached the swimmer and smelled its head and embraced it for few seconds. Later all the three juveniles joined the other males.

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### 2. NOTES ON THE STRANGE BEHAVIOUR OF A SNOW LEOPARD (*PANTHERA UNCIA*)

On 22nd January 1984, at 08 20 hours in the morning, I was monitoring the daily activity pattern of a Himalayan tahr herd (48 animals) in the Langu valley (3460 m) of western Nepal. When I searched the higher slopes for more animals, I saw an adult snow leopard descending towards the feeding herd on the mixed scrub slope. Except a few stand-

ing animals all individuals were feeding and moving up the slope. Almost the whole ground was covered by at least 8 inches deep snow which had fallen the previous night. When the snow leopard was about 30 m above the herd, it started stalking with the belly touching the ground and tail waving. As, the tahr were moving upwards the snow leopard

and tahr were only 16 m away from each other within 10 minutes. At 08 32 the snow leopard stood up and I thought that the snow leopard was getting ready to make a rush towards its prey. I am quite positive that some of the tahr must have seen the snow leopard at that time but none seemed either frightened or gave a warning call. Once again the snow leopard started stalking when the tahr were in a very vulnerable position due to the short distance and snow on the ground. But, again the snow leopard left stalking got up and moved away from the scene. The Snow leopard went back along the same path on the snow covered slope it had used when it had appeared a few minutes earlier. It disappeared after about 300 m on the snow, high up in the mountain ridge.

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I monitored the daily activity of the tahr herd till dark on that day, but the snow leopard did not return to hunt again. The tahr had followed the same daily routine as if nothing had happened to them. I have never seen the snow leopard the only predator for Himalayan tahr and blue sheep in the Langu valley, behave in such a manner before. I have witnessed several instances of snow leopard's hunting in the same area, and they had killed the ungulates in some cases and in other cases had unsuccessfully chased the animals after stalking. Perhaps the snow leopard was not hungry at that time? Or, probably it had seen me though I was about 700 m away and observing from behind a rock. What could be the possible reason?

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### 3. HOW DOES THE YOUNG *TAPHOZOUS KACHENSIS* SETTLE UPON ITS MOTHER

(With a photograph)

In a paper published in this journal, and concerning the breeding habits of the bat *Taphozous kachensis*, Sapkal and Deshmukh (1985) said: "The young ones are not carried by the mothers on their backs as was mentioned by Brosset (1962) but are carried at the breast". The citation is not correct; I wrote: "The young keeps itself on the back of the mother" which has, in my mind, a different meaning.

Since my 1962 paper, I saw several species of bats keeping their young on their back. Kulzer had published an excellent photograph

showing of this in the african molossid *Mops condylura* (see in Brosset 1966). My observations on *T. kachensis* are old (1959-1961), and I consulted my field notes in order to verify the basis of my assertion. It was recorded that lactating females were caught with half and full grown young ones on their back at Ellora, Ajanta, Aurangabad and Badami. More, I found several pictures which prove that my observations were correct. These pictures show clearly young astride the back of their mother. Some of these pictures have been published, including one, taken at Ellora, in